

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 OPR-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 /070 W  
-----171005Z 075688 /10

R 170940Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9370

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 3786

FOL MSG FROM SONGKHLA SENT ACTION BANGKOK 17 FEB IS REPEATED  
TO YOU:

QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL SONGKHLA 0033

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, TH  
SUBJECT: INSURGENTS STEP UP ATTACKS IN THE SOUTH

SUMMARY: INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN THE MID SOUTH HAS INCREASED  
DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF FEBRUARY. ATTACKS HAVE CONCENTRATED  
ON ISOLATED POLICE POSTS. SEVERAL ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT (RTG)  
HELICOPTERS HAVE ALSO BEEN HIT ENCLUDING ONE CARRYING A MEMBER  
OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WHO WAS KILLED. IT IS CLEAR THAT DESPITE  
OPTIMISTIC OFFICIAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING MILITARY OPERATIONS  
IN THE AREA IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF  
THAILAND (CPT) IS ALIVE AND KICKING IN THE MID SOUTH.

END SUMMARY

1. INSURGENT ACTIVITY WHICH HAD DROPPED OFF IN JANUARY WHEN RTG  
SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS WERE CONCENTRATED IN THE MID SOUTH HAS PICKED  
UP AGAIN. IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN ATTACKS ON  
POLICE STATIONS IN SURAT THANI, NAKORN SRI THAMMARAT (NST),  
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KRABI, AND TRANG. SEVERAL OF THESE ATTACKS WERE IN DISTRICTS  
ADJACENT TO FORMER INSURGENT CONCENTRATIONS. LOCAL OFFICIALS REASON  
THAT INSURGENTS MOVED INTO THESE AREAS TO AVOID RTG SWEEPS LAST  
MONTH.

2. ONE STEP RTG IS REPORTEDLY CONTEMPLATING TO CUT DOWN ON  
LOSSES SUFFERED IN ATTACKS ON TAMBON POLICE STATIONS IS TO CLOSE

DOWN A NUMBER OF THEM. ACCORDING TO THAI LANGUAGE "DAILY NEWS" OF FEBRUARY 15, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED THE LOSSES OF WEAPONS, AMMUNITION, AND PRESTIGE SUFFERED IN TRYING TO DEFEND THESE STATIONS HAVE BECOME INTOLERABLE. TAMBON POLICE STATIONS WERE ORIGINALLY CONSTRUCTED WITH CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FROM USOM, AND THEIR ABANDONMENT, IF IT OCCURS, COULD CONCEIVABLY PRECIPITATE COMMENT ON THE WISDOM OF THE PROGRAM BY THE THAI MEDIA AS WELL AS OTHERS.

3. IN ADDITION TO ATTACKS ON POLICE OUTPOSTS, INSURGENTS HAVE FIRED ON AND HIT SEVERAL GOVERNMENT HELICOPTERS RECENTLY. MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT WAS FEB 16 SHOOTING OF HELICOPTER CARRYING MOM CHAO YING WIPADEE RANGSIT TO WIANGSA DISTRICT OF SURAT WHERE SHE PLANNED TO VISIT SOLDIERS ON DUTY. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, SHE IS THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY KILLED BY THE INSURGENTS. THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THAT INCIDENT, THE GOVERNOR OF NST AND HIS WIFE AS WELL AS WHANPUYING USANA PRAMOTE, WIFE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOTE, NARROWLY ESCAPED INJURY WHEN THEIR HELOCOPTER WAS HIT BY INSURGENT FIRE WHILE FLYING OVER CHAWANG DISTRICT OF NST.

4. INCREASED INSURGENT ACTIVITY CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH MILITARY REPORTS ISSUED IN EARLY FEBRUARY THAT "NEARLY ALL COMMUNIST STRONGHOLDS IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED." (BANGKOK WORLD FEB 5, 1977) INSURGENT ACTIVITY MAY HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED WHILE RTG TROOPERS SAUNTERED THROUGH THE AREA BUT IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT ANY PERMANENT DAMAGE WAS DONE. LOCAL OFFICIALS SAY THEY EXPECT MORE ATTACKS IN SURAT AND NST IN THE COMING WEEKS.

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HAMILTON

UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** INSURGENTS STEP UP ATTACKS IN THE SOUTH SUMMARY: INSURGENT ACTIVITY IN THE MID SOUTH HAS INCREASED DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF FEBRUARY. ATTACKS H  
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